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My record before coming to Vancouver — my work here is well known

To MR. JOHN FRANCIS BURSILL,

Sometime

Fellow of the "Royal Historical Society."

Member of "The Royal Institute of Journalists."

Governor of Bolingbroke Hospital.

Chairman of Commissioneers for Public Libraries, Battersea.

Active and Prominent Member of many Public Bodies,

Local Parliaments, Clubs, Institutes, &c., &c.

Editor of "The Battersea Beacon,"

"The South London Mail," and 19 years on the Staff of

"South London Press," &c. &c.

Contributor to many Leading Papers and Periodicals.

MR. J. FRANCIS BURSILL,

Dear Sir,

We who sign this address, hear with much regret that you are leaving England for Vancouver, British Columbia.

We are sorry to lose you.

Very many others—so scattered that they cannot be reached, would, we are sure, express the same regret that you are leaving Old England, and the same desire which we have for your future health and happiness.

We are sorry that the state of your health makes a Sea Voyage and change of scene necessary. We sympathize with you, knowing you have suffered domestic afflictions and that the "Slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" have assailed you.

You have been more mindful of Public interests than of your own, or you would have been able to enjoy the rest you have so well earned.

We—sincerely hope that the change may lead to Health and Prosperity and that "Our Brethren across the Seas" will appreciate your Public Spirit—your Versatile Talents and Abilities and Social Qualities.

You have been an Able, Industrious and Valued Citizen of "The Old Country" and your record should secure you a VERY WARM WELCOME from a cultured community in any part of the World.

P.T.O.

We are glad to know that you will be accompanied by your wife, who has modestly shrunk from prominence in public life but whose excellent qualities are appreciated by all who know her.

May the change of scene bring her the Health and Happiness she so well deserves.

Your Son, Mr. F. Noel Bursill, who accompanies you should find in a New Country a scope for his artistic talents. May prosperity attend him also.

You MR BURSILL, are not the man to desire a catalogue of the good works you have accomplished, and attempted (indeed such a catalogue would be very difficult to compile) but to show you (and others) that **Your Work and Influence have been valued** (by many of us during a long series of years) we gratefully enumerate a few of your efforts and successes and we regret that our brief words can do you but scant justice.

A Worker.

From early boyhood J. Francis Bursill has led a singularly versatile, and strenuous life—always ready to co-operate in, and often leading, movements for the public good. He has devoted exceptional talent to support Education, Healthy Recreation, the development of Art, and sound Commercial Enterprise. His gift of Public speech has helped the cause of Progress and Charity and his facile witty and eloquent pen has ever been well employed. Anything by "Felix Penne" has been interesting, informing and effective.

Journalism.

For more than 35 years J. Francis Bursill has been known as an able, independent Journalist, Versatile, Accurate, Industrious and Honest. A fearless and just Critic, a good friend to any deserving cause or person. For the Public Library movement and for the Preservation of Historic Relics, he did service quite National in character. He saved the "Lambeth Pedlars Window" and many other valuables from the Vandals. He splendidly vindicated South London from undeserved detraction. His remarkable knowledge of Local History has informed and stimulated Local Patriotism and preserved Rights of Way, Open Spaces, and other Public Privileges. As Editor and Journalist he has been always "Straight" painstaking, interesting and useful.

Healthy Recreation.

More than 40 years ago when "Penny Readings" were doing so much good John Francis Bursill was known as a Clever Actor and Elocutionist, a reputation he still enjoys. He took Halls and directed Entertainments in the poorest parts of London. His work in the Slums of Westminster is well remembered. Later on the "Happy Evenings" he organized at Battersea Baths, pioneered the great Sunday League Gatherings. His Lantern Lectures, especially on Local History, have delighted thousands. He was the first to teach Local History in the Board Schools, and the School Board for London acquired many of his unique Slides and much of his laboriously collected information. He was a great helper to such men, as the Rev. Geo. M. Murphy, the Rev. Newman Hall and other Friends of Popular Education and Temperance.

J. Francis Bursill was the first man to propose a Polytechnic for Battersea, his advocacy founded it. The famous Bramblebury Fete, which gave that great Institution a start, was mainly the outcome of his enthusiasm, zeal, and labour. For the Early Closing movement J. Francis Bursill laboured incessantly. The Book "Death and Disease behind the Counter" had much from his pen, and he splendidly aided Sir John Lubbock, Canon Shuttleworth, and other friends of labour.

Charity.

Many hundreds of able articles have been written by Mr. J. Francis Bursill, which have greatly helped the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, the Hospital for Children and Women, the Bolingbroke Hospital, the Colleges for the Blind, &c., &c. He had a "Ballad" or Story always ready for every occasion.

Especially do we remember that, in spite of much opposition, Mr. Bursill proposed and organized a great Pageant—three miles long, for the "Daily Telegraph Fund" for the Widows and Children of those who fell in the South African War. This Pageant, and the Banquet to Battersea heroes which followed it were marked by much of his originality, and added £1,200 to the Daily Telegraph Fund.

P.T.O.

Art.

Belonging to a family which has had some distiuguished artists, Mr. J. Francis Bursill has taken a great interest in Art matters, Year after year he followed the work of South London Artists in the Public Galleries and many a now famous artist had first words of appreciation and encouragement from his pen. The Blake Memorial in Lambeth Library originated with him and works of art he suggested or discovered adorn many Public and Private galleries. His collection of Lambeth Pictures is much valued in the Minet Public Library at Myatts Fields. Mr. Bursill organised several remarkable Art Exhibitions in South London.

Books.

As a Book-lover and Collector Mr. J. F. Bursill has a wide reputation and the dispersal of his remarkable collection is a thing to deplore. He has made Literary "finds" which adorn the British Museum and many Libraries, Public and Private—at home and in the Colonies, His Shakespearian researches were appreciated by Mr. Sam Timmins, his labours for Art by Mr. Samuel Carter Hall. His collection of "Colloquialisms" was used by Professor Barrere in his great "Slang Dictionary." He has been too busy a journalist to do much Book writing (and the failure and death of a Publisher has robbed him of years of labour on "Lambeth") but many "Lantern Lectures" he has written on Historical subjects are known all over the world and many booklets and pamphlets from his pen have had an immense and useful circulation. The late Dr. Richard Garnett showed warm appreciation of Mr. Bursills Biographical and Historical Work.

Politics.

"Tom Hughes for Lambeth" was the cry which first inspired Mr. J. F. Bursill to Political Work. He has been a political worker ever since. He was G. M. Murphys trusted agent at the first School Board Election. He had charge of the Central Committee Rooms for John Morley (in Westminster,) for whom he worked so devotedly that he never took off his clothes for 6 nights. To summarize—as a Civil Servant and Volunteer, a Journalist, an Elocutionist and Lecturer, as Editor, Author, Politician and Publicist, J. Francis Bursill has won Honour, Esteem and Respect—and left his mark for good on his day and generation. He will leave in England many valuable and lasting memorials of his zeal, intelligence, industry and influence.

We fancy Mr. Bursill that we hear you say with Hamlet, "Something too much of this"—so we conclude—leaving many good things unrecorded here—but well remembered.

In conclusion we can only wish you "God Speed"—may you find many friends in the Country to which you are going. Any good news of you and yours will give great pleasure to those who have known you for many years At Home.

Your Friends and Well Wishers.